

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An elevator communication system, comprising:
 - a cab computer coupled to an elevator cab and communicating with an elevator control system and a server, the server containing information content;
 - a display communicating with the cab computer, the display positioned inside the elevator cab;wherein the cab computer performs the steps of:
 - receiving data from the elevator control system;
 - choosing specific information content based on the data received from the elevator control system; and
 - presenting the chosen information content on the display.
2. The elevator communication system of claim 1, wherein the data received from the elevator control system is selected from the group consisting of: a time of day; an elevator door position; an elevator location; an elevator direction; a building floor arrival order; a building movement; and a fire alarm.
3. The elevator communication system of claim 1, wherein the cab computer determines an elevator ride duration from the data received from the elevator control system.

4. The elevator communication system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a plurality of regions, the regions selected from the group consisting of: a floor and direction region; a floor directory region; a trivia region; a message region; a trivia and message region; a news region; a sports region; a news and sports region; a finance region; a weather region; a finance and weather region; a video region; and an emergency region.

5. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the floor and direction region exhibits a current floor number, a current elevator direction and comprises substantially one-ninth of a display area.

6. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the floor directory region exhibits a list, the list selected from at least the group consisting of: an office, a company, an individual, and other items of interest located on a building floor at which the elevator will stop next.

7. The elevator communication system of claim 6, wherein the floor directory list changes to the next arrival floor when an elevator door is closed, and comprises substantially one-ninth of a display area.

8. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the trivia region exhibits a question followed by an associated answer, the question and associated answer randomly selected from a multiplicity of questions and associated answers stored in the server.

9. The elevator communication system of claim 8, wherein the trivia region comprises substantially one-ninth of a display area, and exhibits the question and the associated answer for approximately 10 seconds.

10. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the message region exhibits a message for approximately 10 seconds, the message randomly selected from a multiplicity of messages stored in the server, and the message region comprises substantially one-ninth of a display area.

11. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the trivia and message region selectively exhibits a question followed by an associated answer or a message, each message, question and associated answer presented for approximately 10 seconds.

12. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the news region exhibits news for approximately 10 seconds, the news randomly selected from a multiplicity of news items stored in the server, and the news region comprises substantially one-ninth of a display area.

13. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the sports region exhibits sports information for approximately 10 seconds, the sports information randomly selected from a multiplicity of sports information items stored in the server, and the sports region comprises substantially one-ninth of a display area.

14. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the news and sports region selectively exhibits news or sports information, with each news and sports information item presented for approximately 10 seconds.

15. The elevator communication system of claim 14, wherein the selectively exhibited news and sports information items remain displayed when an elevator door is open.

16. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the finance region exhibits finance information for approximately 10 seconds, the finance information randomly selected from a multiplicity of finance information items stored in the server, and the finance region comprises substantially one-ninth of a display area.

17. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the weather region exhibits weather information for approximately 10 seconds, the weather information randomly selected from a multiplicity of weather information items

stored in the server, and the weather region comprises substantially one-ninth of a display area.

18. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the finance and weather region selectively exhibits finance and weather information, with each finance and weather information item presented for approximately 10 seconds.

19. The elevator communication system of claim 18, wherein the weather and finance region selectively presents weather and finance information while an elevator door remains open.

20. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the video region exhibits videos selected from the group consisting of: time of day videos; building floor videos; emergency videos; public service videos; and common videos.

21. The elevator communication system of claim 20, wherein the videos are exhibited in a sequence consisting of: building floor videos, time of day videos, common videos, and a ratio of public service videos.

22. The elevator communication system of claim 20, wherein the server generates a list of each video exhibited in the elevator cab.

23. The elevator communication system of claim 20, wherein the video exhibited in the video region plays to completion when an elevator door is opened.

24. The elevator communication system of claim 20, wherein the video display is dormant when the elevator is inactive.

25. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the emergency region exhibits specific emergency information when an emergency occurs, and the emergency region comprises substantially an entire display area.

26. The elevator communication system of claim 4, wherein the display comprises:

a floor and direction region located a first corner of the display;

a trivia region located in a second corner of the display;

a floor directory region located substantially between the floor and direction region and the trivia region;

a finance and weather region located in a third corner of the display;

a news and sports region located substantially between the trivia region and the finance and weather region; and

a video region located in a fourth corner of the display.

27. The elevator communication system of claim 1, wherein the display is inactive when the elevator is dormant.

28. The elevator communication system of claim 1, further including an audio speaker communicating with the cab computer and positioned inside the elevator cab.

29. The elevator communication system of claim 1, further including a keypad in the elevator cab, and wherein the keypad is used to present specific information content.

30. The elevator communication system according to claim 1, further including a microphone in the elevator cab, and wherein a voice command received from the microphone is used to selectively present specific information content and communicate with individuals outside the elevator.

31. The elevator communication system according to claim 1, further including a video camera in the cab generating video data, and wherein the video data is used to by the cab computer to select and present specific information content.

32. The elevator communication system according to claim 1, further including a video camera in the cab generating video data, wherein the video data is communicated to a display at a security console.

33. The elevator communication system according to claim 1, further including an Internet communication line coupled to the server, wherein the server routes Internet content received from the Internet to the cab computer.

34. The elevator communication system according to claim 1, further including an antennae connected to the server and a cab antennae connected to the cab computer, wherein a wireless communication link is established between the server and the cab computer.

35. The elevator communications system according to claim 1 further including a camera mounted remote from the cab and directed toward a passageway near an exit to the elevator cab, the camera being coupled to the server.

36. The elevator communications system according to claim 1 further including a camera mounted remote from the cab and directed toward a security person, the camera being coupled to the server, so that the security person can be exhibited on the display.

37. A method of presenting information content in an elevator cab located in a building, the method comprising the steps of:

generating at least a portion of the information content at a location physically remote from the building;

sending at least a portion of the information content to an apparatus located in the building;

relaying data from an elevator control system to the apparatus;

queuing, responsive to the data relayed from the elevator control system, portions of the information content; and

forwarding the queued information content to the elevator cab.

38. The method of presenting information content of claim 37, wherein the step of queuing, responsive to the data relayed from the elevator control system, portions of the information content comprises any one of the steps selected from the group consisting of:

determining a time of day; determining an elevator ride duration from the data received from the elevator control system; determining an elevator location; determining an elevator direction; determining a building floor arrival order; determining a building movement; and detecting a fire alarm.

39. The method of presenting information content of claim 37, wherein the building includes a plurality of elevator cabs, and the method further includes the steps of:

relaying data from an elevator control system to the apparatus, the data including facts from each of the elevator cabs;

queuing, in response to the facts from each of the elevator cabs, specific information content tailored to each of the elevator cabs; and

forwarding the queued informational content to each of the elevator cabs.